

AMENDMENTS TO THE CLAIMS

1. - 9. (Cancelled)

10. (**Currently Amended**) A method of sterilizing a material to be sterilized, which comprises contacting, with a material to be sterilized, an aqueous solution containing an organic peracid obtained by reacting (A) an ester of a polyhydric alcohol and an organic acid having a hydrocarbon group which may have a hydroxyl group with (B1) hydrogen peroxide in an (A)/(B1) molar ratio of 1/10 to 20/1 in water at pH 8 to 12, and then adjusting the reaction system to pH 1 to 5;

wherein the reaction of (A) with (B1) in water at pH 8 to 12 is carried out at 5 to 50°C for 1 to 120 minutes.

11. (Cancelled)

12. (Previously Presented) The sterilizing method according to claim 10, wherein the content of hydrogen peroxide is 0.5 wt% or less.

13. (**Currently Amended**) A process for producing an organic peracid, which comprises a step of reacting (A) an ester of a polyhydric alcohol and an organic acid having a hydrocarbon group which may have a hydroxyl group with (B1) hydrogen peroxide in an (A)/(B1) molar ratio of 1/10 to 20/1 in water at pH 8 to 12, and then adjusting the reaction system to pH 1 to 5;

wherein the reaction of (A) with (B1) in water at pH 8 to 12 is carried out at 5 to 50°C for 1 to 120 minutes.

14. (**Currently Amended**) A process for producing a sterilizer composition, which comprises a step of reacting (A) an ester of a polyhydric alcohol and an organic acid having a hydrocarbon group which may have a hydroxyl group with (B1) hydrogen peroxide in an (A)/(B1) molar ratio of 1/10 to 20/1 in water at pH 8 to 12, and then adjusting the reaction system to pH 1 to 5;

wherein the reaction of (A) with (B1) in water at pH 8 to 12 is carried out at 5 to 50°C for 1 to 120 minutes.

15. (Cancelled)

16. (Previously Presented) The process according to claim 14, wherein the content of hydrogen peroxide in the sterilizer composition is 0.5 wt% or less.

17. (Previously Presented) The process according to claim 14, wherein the polyhydric alcohol constituting (A) is a C2 to C12 polyhydric alcohol.

18. (Previously Presented) The process according to claim 14, wherein the organic acid constituting (A) is a C1 to C8 fatty acid.

19. - 21. (Cancelled)

22. (Previously Presented) The sterilizing method according to claim 10, wherein the pH of the reaction system before adjustment is 9 to 11.

23. (Previously Presented) The process according to claim 13, wherein the pH of the reaction system before adjustment is 9 to 11.

24. (Previously Presented) The process according to claim 14, wherein the pH of the reaction system before adjustment is 9 to 11.